

imperialist forces and the resistance put up by the local reactionaries naturally create many difficulties and hindrances for the socialist-oriented countries. In some of these countries embezzlement, corruption, mismanagement and money-grubbing are rife, and there is a dangerous trend towards the formation of an anti-national parasitical stratum of the bureaucratic bourgeoisie and the revival of tribalist and other negative traditions inherited from the colonial past. Many of these phenomena spring from survivals of the era of foreign rule; others from the continued dependence of these countries on the world capitalist market, from the political instability of developing countries, from the ceaseless intrigues of imperialism and the local reactionaries, and from the subversive activities of imperialist intelligence agencies. Still others from haste in the enforcement of some unprepared or ill-prepared socio-economic reforms that leads to an unjustified deterioration of the conditions of the working people.

In the countries of capitalist orientation the ruling circles are primarily aiming at establishing economic and political structures aimed at expediting the growth of the bourgeoisie. In this context contradictions may appear between these political regimes and imperialism. These differences very often reflect the pressure of the masses for real independence, and of the local bourgeoisie for better economic positions. But the neocolonialist regimes, while demanding concessions from the foreign monopolies, try to restrain and to resolve the contradictions only within the framework of the neocolonial system.

The fact that in socialist-oriented countries there are different and sometimes negative phenomena cannot obscure the basic, fundamentally qualitative distinctions between the two orientations of social development — capitalist and socialist. In the countries of socialist orientation attempts are being made to consolidate the national independence and class positions of the working people.

Nor do such weaknesses justify any hypercritical or doctrinaire condemnations which disorient the revolutionary forces in Africa. The Communists as well as all conscientious patriotic forces are resolutely on the side of these progressive states in their struggle against imperialism and African reaction. But they are conscious of the fact that the consistency of anti-imperialist positions will, in the

long run, be determined by the changing correlation of internal class forces in favour of socialist orientation.

In the vast majority of African countries only socialist orientation opens the door for the oppressed peoples to freedom, independence, prosperity and progress. It is the internationalist duty of African democrats, advocates of social progress, of all convinced Socialists and Communists, of all the anti-imperialist forces to support the socialist-oriented states. The Communists always keep in mind the threat of counter-revolutionary coups that constantly hangs over these countries, of the possibility of regressive development in individual countries.

The mercenary acts of piracy against the progressive states are organised with the complicity of imperialist powers which by using these subversive means seek to restore their lost positions. But the failure of the mercenary expeditions against the Republic of Guinea, Angola, Benin and other countries shows that the popular masses are determined to defend their independence and progressive achievements. It is the right and the duty of African progressive states, acting individually or collectively to take all necessary measures to put an end to these new forms of imperialist gun-boat diplomacy. In this context they emphatically advocate strengthening the unity of all left, democratic and progressive forces on an anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist foundation and the utmost consolidation of the socialist-oriented countries.

Revolutionary experience shows that only through the formation of an anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist revolutionary organisation based on the support of the working people and other patriotic strata is it possible to consistently carry out and to defend fundamental socio-economic reforms. Already many organisations which began their life as broad revolutionary democratic movements have begun the process of transforming themselves. We hail this tendency and regard them as part of the emerging and growing body of Marxist revolutionary vanguards in our continent.